Dec. 19, 2021
9:30 AM

“We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors.”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EXPRESSING OUR LOVE
(As we prepare for worship, we invite quiet contemplation of the Living God.)
*For those who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT
“The Star Carol”

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 80)
Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*HYMN #13 (UCC-Red) “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE
We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE
SONG OF PRAISE #338 (UCC-red) (Gloria Patri)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

GOD MOMENT

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Micah 5: 2-5a

THE CHILD IN US ALL – A MUSICAL MESSAGE (Teachers and classes leave for Church School)

SERMON

“Be Thou Our Joy”

*HYMN #99 (UCC-Red) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GIFTS (Please send pledges & donations to the church via mail or use online giving.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

*SONG OF PRAISE  HYMN #780 Doxology (NCH – Black)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, O heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dearest Lord, with great joy we thank you for the gifts you’ve given us, and for the opportunity to share them with others. Through sharing, we learn to appreciate the variety of gifts in each one of your people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN #76 (NCH-Black) “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #812 (NCH-Black) “Threefold Amen”

Amen, Amen, Amen

POSTLUDE

WE EXTEND THE HAND of Christian fellowship to all who have come to worship in this Welcoming, Open and Affirming congregation. May our prayers and the hearing of God’s Word make our burdens lighter, our hearts encouraged, and our souls refreshed.
If you are visiting for the first time, we welcome you.
To join our online live worship service for each Sunday at 9:30 A.M., go to the church website, www.fccuccspfdvt.org. Click on Worship on the black bar under the picture of the church. Click on the Facebook link. Click on the arrow of the live video.
Following the worship service, all are invited to join us downstairs in the vestry for coffee and conversation!
Nursery care (up to 3 years old) and church school are offered during the worship hour. If you are not sure where to find this service, please speak to an usher.

OUR THANKS to Jon Clinch and all who participated in our service this morning.

CHRISTMAS FUND—Sunday, December 19th
The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Thank you for your generosity in remembering those who have served us so well in times past.
Diane Holme, Outreach Ministry

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING-BUILDING HOMES AND FAITH
Our offering this year will be split between Habitat and the Hope Fund. The Greater Springfield, VT Area Habitat for Humanity is starting the family selection process for a recently purchased home in Springfield. The Hope Fund is a new fund created by the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ to support projects and mission for Vermont congregations to foster building relationships with our unchurched neighbors. Through a variety of community projects, we can offer the opportunity to join together in joy and exploration and to be “Be the Church” in their midst. Our offering plates are at the back of the church for your gifts. Thank you!

ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are given by Patti Kemp and family

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE NEEDED! Please call Cynthia King, 885-5831, if you would like to sign up for flowers.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING more about the bible? Join us for Wilderness Bible Study at 10 AM on Thursday. It’s a Zoom meeting; all are welcome! AND – a Tuesday evening edition, focusing on the Gospel of Mark, meets at 7 PM on Zoom.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE:
Those words can mean most anything. Would you or someone you know benefit from prayers, home visits, help with shopping, rides to appointments, prepared meals, food to help you over a hard time? If you have such a need, or know someone who does, please contact one of the Congregational Care co-chairs. Claire Trask at 886-7377.

PRAYER LIST
Family of Roberta Smith Ruth and Dan Kelin
Ginny Blais Jane Morin
Marion Lerandeau Claire Hatch
Family of Nancy Sinclair All others in need
Family of Kim Rhodes

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>Worship – Michael Mario</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Longest Night Service</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 23</td>
<td>Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 26</td>
<td>Worship – Michael Mario</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Tues. & Wed. 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M
PASTOR’S HOURS Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

STAFF
Pastor: Michael Mario
Administrative Assistant: Judy Lasell
Sexton: Todd Murray